

HAERS
ILL
50-MARS,
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ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, MARSEILLES PASSENGER DEPOT
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
East of Main Street
Marseilles
LaSalle County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-98

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD, MARSEILLES PASSENGER DEPOT
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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor
East of Main Street
Marseilles, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.457630 N.357180
Quad: Marseilles

Date of Construction: 1917

Builder: Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad

Present Owner: Unknown

Present Use: Restaurant ("Mallory's Depot")

Significance: In 1917, the Rock Island Railroad built this ornamental depot to replace the first passenger station ever built by the Rock Island Railroad.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historians: David Kelliher and Timothy Whittaker, 1986.

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The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad commenced its rail operations through Marseilles in March 1853. The first Rock Island passenger station in Marseilles stood on the south side of the tracks and was a wood-frame building. An 1889 Sanborn Insurance map shows the wood-frame station; just to the east of the station was an artesian well and a coal shed. In 1917 the present brick building was erected north of the tracks at a cost of \$20,000. The freight house (now demolished) stood south of the tracks, east of the original passenger station. The impressive new brick passenger station, with ornamental brick and woodwork, closed in the early 1970s. The station is presently used as a restaurant.

The depot is a one-and-one-half-story brick building featuring a large intersecting hipped roof covered with terra-cotta tiles. The building measures approximately 90' x 30' and rests on a concrete foundation. The exterior contains a running-bond brick skirting with a cast-stone string course. Above the string course, the brick walls are covered with stucco. Brick quoins and corbeling support decorative wooden brackets with knee braces. The knee braces in turn support the overhanging eaves. North and south facades feature a projecting central bay with a gabled roof and a segmental arched window. Concrete steps descend to a brick passenger platform on the south side of the building. The brick pavers were manufactured by Neosehs Brick & Tile Co. of Kansas.

SOURCES:

Sanborn Map Co., Marseilles, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1888, 1891, 1898, 1907, 1913, 1925).

Historical Booklet Committee, Marseilles Sesquicentennial, 1835-1985 (Coal City, IL: Bailey Printing Co., 1985).